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The Navy and German Power Politics 1862-1914

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ter leakage, which contaminated fuel that in turn caused boiler damage. These defects, caused by years of neglect or wear, delayed the entry into combat of some flush-deckers.

The Towns were prepared for service and adapted for antisubmarine warfare through a series of scheduled refits. As a class they became operational early in 1941. They were used on escort duty on the east coast of England, in the North Atlantic and as antisubmarine escorts to the 1st Minelaying Squadron. Some were manned by Dutch, Polish or Norwegian crews. After 1943, most were employed only on training duties or were inactivated. Nine were loaned to the Soviet Union in 1944; one of these, the *Dyatelnii*, ex-HMS *Churchill*, ex-USS *Herndon* (DD-198), was the last war loss of the class. The rest were returned to Britain in the years 1949-1952 and scrapped.

All the flush-deckers transferred to Britain are pictured, except the *St. Marys*, ex-USS *Doran*, ex-USS *Bagley* (DD-185) for which no authenticated photograph could be found. A foldout plan, with some details left out, shows the internal arrangement of the destroyers on transfer in 1940.

Together, these books offer an almost complete history of the flush-deckers. *Flush Decks and Four Pipes* offers a lively narrative description of the peacetime and wartime activities of the flush-deckers as a class, but Alden makes little mention of the poor material condition of those transferred to Britain. *The Towns* offers a look at the problems

of adapting fifty worn-out or neglected destroyers for service in a war for which they were unsuited, but in which they served gallantly.

WILLIAM H. CROFT
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Lambi, Ivo Nikolai. *The Navy and German Power Politics 1862-1914*. Winchester, Mass.: Unwin Hyman, Inc., 1984. 438pp. \$65

Ivo Lambi describes in detail the German plans for naval operations from 1862 to 1914 against France and Russia, and later against Great Britain and the United States as well. He also provides considerable information on the German naval construction programs of the period.

The fascinating details of naval operations planning dominate Lambi's narrative. Unfortunately, the author's explanations provide an inadequate strategic background. He has also allowed minor errors in technical points and nautical terminology to slip by. Had he provided a detailed bibliography, that would have been useful.

Still, this book probably stands by itself in the English language in the sheer detail of its scope and coverage. Several articles by Paul M. Kennedy, Jonathan Steinberg, and Holger Herwig, and Herwig's book, *The Politics of Frustration, the United States in German Naval Planning 1889-1941*, contain this same level of detail, but only for isolated periods.

Lambi's book has had very little exposure and has seen few reviews.

This is a shame, for it deserves far better treatment. I recommend it to both the serious student of German naval history and to strategic and force planners.

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Cole, Paul M. and Hart, Douglas M., eds. *Northern Europe: Security Issues for the 1990s*. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press, 1986.

At direct glance the book under review would seem to have been overtaken by the current revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe and the USSR. These days a sudden and massive thrust by the Soviet/Warsaw Pact forces across the North German Plain appears unlikely. The still ongoing upheaval in Eastern Europe, combined with the recent outcome of the talks on conventional force reductions in Europe may have made it almost impossible for the Soviets to carry out a sudden and massive *blitzkrieg*-type thrust into Western Europe.

So why is Nato's Northern Flank still worth serious discussion? To this reviewer, the answer is very simple. No matter what the current Soviet military doctrine may be, that country's military capabilities and geopolitical position count the most. The USSR is, and will remain for the foreseeable future, the only country which can obliterate both the United States and everyone else in Nato.

Despite the changes in the military situation in Eastern Europe, Nato's flanks remain vulnerable, particularly in the north. Hence, the importance of the topic chosen by the editors of the book under review.

The aim of the editors and authors was to reassess the security environment in Northern Europe in the light of history, traditions, and regional dynamics. The opening chapter by Arne Brundtland introduces the key issues that affect the policy in the region. Brundtland describes the historical environment that is the foundation of the current security issues. The next three chapters are case studies dealing with Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Norway.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter in the book is about the Federal Republic of Germany by Heinz von zur Gathen. The author describes in some detail the various strategic aspects of the Baltic Sea in its relation to central and northern Europe. His focus is, however, on the German contribution to the defense of the Baltic Approaches.

In a chapter on Norway's energy security, Charles K. Ebinger and Caroline Verhague explain both the potential and the vulnerability of Norway's energy security. Richard Brody in his chapter on deep-strike technology analyzes the relationship between emerging technologies and the defense of northern Europe. He describes how conventional deep-strike weapons can be used against the Soviet targets in the area and vice versa. The author also deals with the